



Activity 1: Borda Count Method

Student Page

The Borda Count Method of Preference Voting.

For the Borda Count method, each candidate gets 1 point for each last-place vote received, 2 points for every next-to-last-place vote, etc., all the way up to N points for each first-place vote (where N is the number of candidates). The candidate with the largest point total wins the election. The Borda Count method requires a *preference ballot*. A preference ballot is an individual voter's ballot in which the voter lists each candidate in order of preference from first to last.

A. The student council decided to use the Borda Count method of voting to elect their new president. One thousand five hundred students cast their preference ballots for the candidates. The results are summarized in the preference schedule below. The four candidates are: Gail, Twanda, Shawn, and Ricco.

	Number of votes received			
Place	390	360	300	450
1 st	Shawn	Gail	Gail	Ricco
2 nd	Twanda	Twanda	Twanda	Twanda
3 rd	Ricco	Ricco	Shawn	Shawn
4 th	Gail	Shawn	Ricco	Gail

1. Write a formula that can be used to determine the total points awarded by the Borda Count method to an individual candidate.
2. Determine the total number of points Shawn is awarded in this election.
3. Determine the total number of points Gail is awarded in this election.

4. Determine the total number of points Twanda is awarded in this election.
5. Determine the total number of points Ricco is awarded in this election.
6. Who wins the election using the Borda Count method?

B. The preference schedule below represents a ranking of the four football teams in the City of Sportsville by 500 of its most avid football fans.

	Number of votes received			
Place	130	120	150	100
1 st	Grizzlies	Indians	Broncos	Jets
2 nd	Hoosiers	Broncos	Hoosiers	Grizzlies
3 rd	Broncos	Jets	Grizzlies	Hoosiers
4 th	Indians	Grizzlies	Jets	Indians
5 th	Jets	Hoosiers	Indians	Broncos

1. What is the final ranking using the Borda Count method?